

The Baptist Record

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First Kazakh-American festival draws understanding

By Michael Chute

ALMA-ATA, U.S.S.R. (BP) — The first large-scale cultural exchange between Americans and Kazakhs created an array of humanitarian, environmental, business, and social projects in Kazakhstan, second-largest of 15 Soviet republics.

Nineteen Mississippians attended the first Kazakh-American Cultural Festival, June 21-6, which drew 330 Americans and more than 100,000 Kazakhs. Southern Baptists initiated the cultural exchange, working with the Central Asian Foundation, a non-profit corporation that directs Christian aid toward human and economic development. Kazakhstan's Golden Apple Foundation and the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey assisted CAF.

Americans of many denominations participated in the exchange that brought them into contact with a primarily Muslim people largely isolated from the West for centuries.

Projects held across Kazakhstan — a vast region as large as the eastern United States — involved medical, business, technical and professional people, educators, university students, construction and crafts workers, pastors, media producers, athletes, and performing artists.

"We had a true chance to feel proud to be Christians, to be on the cutting edge in a way that's meaningful to people," said Wallace Williams, executive director-treasurer of Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptists. "We found people right around the edges waiting for somebody to come out and say something credible about Christianity. Those stories are just amazing."

Just one of many stories involved the experience of a headmaster of a youth camp sponsored by the Kazakhstan Communist Party's publishing house. With a tear running down her cheek, she told festival participants: "My impression of Americans was that they were people with cold hearts. But now, through your (university) students, I've seen warm souls."

Scott Hoffman of Greenville, a student at Mississippi Delta Community College, worked with the student group in Alma-Ata in cultural encounters with Kazakh students.

"This is what I like to do," said Hoffman, who is studying to be a youth pastor. "It went great. I've not seen so much trust in us like the people of Kazakhstan gave to us. We were the first Americans to ever go to the town of Chilik."

Tom McLaughlin of Indianola, Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi Delta Community College, brought six students with him to Kazakhstan. The BSU raised money to fund the trip with such things as car washes and bake sales.

American businessmen attending the festival hope entrepreneurial activity will develop in the Kazakh business community. They have taken

information back to the United States to try to match up Kazakh and American companies. William and Faith Maxwell of Jackson were two Mississippians involved in the entrepreneurial effort. William is director, Accounting and Personnel Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

American medical workers and environmentalists aided health institutions in Semipalatinsk and Pavlodar. The two communities, located on either side of a nuclear test site, have high rates of radiation-related diseases.

Americans also helped in food distribution around the inland Aral Sea. Southern Baptists have provided \$1 million to a feeding program in the famine-stricken region. At least 7 million people in the Aral region face severe malnutrition because of extensive irrigation from its source rivers. Diversion of water for cotton fields in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and

Turkmenistan has put the region on the brink of ecological disaster.

Over the past two decades, the death rate in the Aral region has doubled. More than 80 percent of pregnant women there are afflicted with anemia. Studies show people there contract typhoid 30 times more often and viral hepatitis seven times more often than in other areas of Kazakhstan.

"We've broken down some walls of separation . . ." — Edna Dawkins

Owen Riddick, pastor of Lake Wood Church in Glen Allan, who worked on the construction team in Zaisan, said there were "many opportunities to witness, especially with the translators. God has really opened doors. God kicked open the door in Kazakhstan. They've asked us for

Bibles. My church will have an opportunity to get personally involved in missions, especially giving Christian literature."

A carpenter before he attended seminary, Riddick worked on the dormitory damaged in the earthquake. He said it was a challenge for the work team at times because the area lacks conveniences like running water, but "God blessed us and provided for us." Also, Riddick's suitcase was lost on the flight over. He didn't get it until the day before he left Kazakhstan.

Students Trey Lovern and Kelly Watts, both of Greenville, also were assigned to the construction team.

During the construction project, Don Langston of Strawberry Plains, Tenn., said local officials asked the group to pray for rain because rainfall has been low this year.

"During our Sunday evening worship service at the dormitory where we were staying, we had a special

prayer for rain for the people," Langston recalled. "The next morning it started raining and rained on and off for three days. Our interpreter stopped everyone and told them the Americans had prayed to their God for rain and he had answered their prayers."

The crafts exposition was a favorite of Kazakhs, who were curious about Americans and American things. The exhibits "were the one thing, besides concerts, open to the general public. I hope we were able to build friendships with the average people in Alma-Ata," said Edna Frances Dawkins of Richmond, Va. "Not only have great friendships been made, but I believe we've broken down some walls of separation" between Americans and Soviets.

A second Kazakh-American festival will be held in Pennsylvania and other states May 10-25, 1992, with 300 Soviet participants.

Chute writes for FMB.



CELEBRATING A NEW RELATIONSHIP — Americans, right, learn how to move to the beat of Kazakh folk music — a fast, stringed-instrument sound. During "The Steppes Treasures" festival in a mountain region of Kazakhstan, Kazakhs and Americans learned about each other through games, performances, and fun. The festival was part of a June 21-July 6 cultural exchange featuring visiting Americans

such as medical personnel, business people and professionals, educators, students, construction workers, performers, and artists. The Americans participated in projects throughout the republic, a vast region as large as the eastern United States. A return event is scheduled next May in the United States to feature 300 Soviet participants representing all facets of modern Kazakh society. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Where are we going this weekend?

We have become a people obsessed with recreation. From May 'til Labor Day the parks are packed, tents spring up in the high places, and recreation vehicles crowd the highways. Our mobile society has produced the bronzed, beach bound, mountain-hiking generation with all the possibilities of bowing before new gods.

Re-creation is good. After days of work we shake free of the 8 to 5 habit and head for the lakes, rivers, parks, campsites, golf courses, and riding trails. Used wisely with God's purpose in mind, it can be helpful to keep us going. However, for many every weekend becomes the exodus, and neighborhood churches are not likely to see them nor reach them with the gospel. Oblivious to spiritual needs it is a headlong dash to fill the void and slake the thirst in an expensive orgy of entertainment.

These people need to be evangelized, and contrary to some believers, the Great Commission includes the beach. I'm grateful we have student workers and some churches reaching

out to minister to the jet-set, fast-track hedonists with the gospel. If we wait until they decide to visit our churches, we can write them off.

The need is for recognition of this as a mission field with trained missionaries invading the enemy's territory. Christian families, who could share recreational activities without succumbing to pagan philosophy could gain entry into lives that are now, untouched by our churches. Christians could use boats, campers, golf clubs, skis, fishing/hiking equipment as a means to introduce the gospel to the unbelievers.

Admittedly it would call for a special breed. They would face resentment, mockery, and cynicism. Few people would welcome a religious zealot bent on making him his target for the day. Many, however, have void and empty lives and all the noise, thrills, and activities cannot fill it. They would welcome a sincere friend with a message of forgiveness and hope.

Is it our desire to reach them or write them off? This may mean 50

percent of the people in your county. These outdoor sun-worshippers are not likely to ever come to your church, but our churches are commanded to go in to all the world to make disciples. A mature missionary, his mind on the task, could reach a lot of people.

The student workers, Campers on Mission, and Sunday services at parks are all good, and those workers are to be commended. This is a plea for evangelism, unthreatened by attire or conduct, without stained-glass windows and pews, taking place in resort centers, beaches, parks, or wherever people swarm together, presenting a counterculture, in love, but with firmness and dedication to Christ. It calls for a "professional" who knows the ways and means of this group, willing to become "all things to all men" and labor for Christ year-round where the need is great. Building relationships and solving problems could open doors to a helpful Samaritan, able to minister without being defensive or threatened, that could spell the difference in many lives.

In times of "forced termination," Christians should offer love

By Karen Benson

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — "My heart hurts."

"He didn't just lose a job. We lost a way of life."

Those comments by two pastors' wives are typical of the pain families feel after a situation of "forced termination," according to author and speaker Jennifer Bryon Owen.

Owen recently led a seminar on "Forced Termination — A Call To Love" during Woman's Missionary Union Conference at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. Owen is coauthor, with Myra Marshall and Dan McGee, of the book *Beyond Termination: A Spouse's Story of Pain and Healing*.

Recent statistics show more than 115 Southern Baptist ministers are forced to leave their pastorates each month, Owen said. By year's end, around 1,400 pastors have experienced "forced termination," she said.

A forced termination is a situation in which "there is a split in the church and a dissolving of the union between church and pastor," Owen said, "and the pastor leaves, either through choice or coercion."

"There is a great deal of secrecy that goes on in a forced termination," Owen said. "It's still embarrassing for all involved."

"We've got to get away from that."

There are two main problems with forced termination in the Southern Baptist Convention, Owen said. "The first problem is the way in which the forced termination is handled. The second is that most churches are unaware of what is happening until it's too late."

When pastors are asked to leave, it's

usually by a small group of leaders in the church, she said. "Most ministers take the attitude that 'It's God's church, and I don't want to cause a split or a fuss, so I'll just move on quietly,'" she said.

Laity need to be sensitive to "what's going on in a church" and be ready to seek advice and assistance from an "outside person" such as the director of missions for that church's association, she said.

For most ministers who have been forced to terminate, there is a feeling of aloneness and a feeling akin to that of a death in the family, she said. "They have lost something of great value, and yet there are no casseroles brought, no service of closure, no body to put into the ground."

Marriages often suffer during times of forced termination, Owen said. "The relationship is often strained, because the first person a minister turns to is his wife. But the wife is affected, too. She is hurting, herself, and is not always able to give the love and support the minister expects."

If a marriage wasn't good before a forced termination, "it probably won't get any better during or after the crisis," she said.

Children of ministers affected by forced termination need to be kept informed "to as much extent possible without going through all the nitty-gritty details," Owen said. "Children can become very bitter through an experience like this. We need to always assure them they do belong to God, and God will take care of them."

It's a myth in Southern Baptist life that fired ministers will have no trou-

ble finding another church soon, Owen said. Most find a secular job or take a pastorate in another denomination, she said.

"Southern Baptists simply don't call a minister who's not already employed on a church staff somewhere else," she said.

In most Southern Baptist churches, there are no performance reviews for ministers, no job descriptions, no clear understandings between pastor and church as to acceptable reasons for a firing, nor any understandings as to who can do the firing, Owen said.

"In most instances, an entire church votes when the minister is hired, but it doesn't come to the entire church when the minister is fired," she said.

Pastors would be wise to thoroughly check out a church before accepting a call, Owen said. "There are churches that are habitual terminators. Ministers need to do a real good background check into churches. There are some churches where they really don't know how else to deal with a problem other than through forced termination."

On the other hand, she said, there are ministers who are "habitually terminated," and churches need to do some thorough background checks of prospective ministers to avert problems.

The No. 1 cause of a forced termination, Owen said, is "poor communication between the minister and the church." The No. 2 reason is immorality.

Regardless of the reason, individuals affected still need a loving approach for helping to heal the hurts.

BEING STALKED DESPITE THE INJECTION



Heartbreak ridge

There have been times when I said, "I will say nothing else about the SBC controversy." People are tired of hearing about it; all that can be said has been said, and we've accused one another of everything from blackmail to buccaneering. Bitter attitudes can creep in, leaving a scorched land where nothing will grow. The thing burns like a fire in your soul and you have to speak.

The latest acidic heartburn concerns Midwestern Seminary of Kanas City. For several years, men have been placed as trustees on seminary board who are hardly sympathetic toward the mission of the school. This creates innumerable problems for administration and faculty, not to mention the other trustees.

Kent Cochran, a bitter opponent of Midwestern Seminary, has been elected as a trustee of that institution. The fundamental/conservatives of Missouri objected, and it took the in-

fluence of Paul Pressler and other top SBC leaders to get him elected.

Cochran was accused of child abuse, spouse abuse, assaulting a police officer, divorce, and failure to pay child support. Cochran has denied all charges. Paige Patterson, Criswell College, says he believes the charges were unfounded. Two of Cochran's former pastors confirmed the charges. So it is charges and countercharges, all to the detriment of the Kingdom.

With thousands of excellent pastors and lay people, must we annually contend with nominations designed for controversy? The seminaries and the Convention have enough problems without unqualified or antagonistic people being elected as trustees. Moreover, this would be an excellent time for the "leaders" of the Convention to speak out and right a wrong. — GH

Baptist Beliefs . . .

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle separated unto the gospel of God." — Romans 1:1

Paul follows the ancient pattern of signing his letters at the beginning. He calls himself a "servant" (doulos, bond slave) of Jesus Christ. This was his favorite self designation. In addition he adds, literally, "a called apostle" ("to be," KJV is in italics showing it is not in the Greek text). The Judaizers denied Paul's apostleship. He further states that he has been set apart for the service of "the gospel of God."

Verses 3-4 describe the gospel as concerning Jesus Christ as Lord. Verse 3 pictures him in his humanity "of the seed of David according to the flesh." Verse 4 presents him as deity "declared" (horizoned) through the Holy Spirit by his resurrection from the dead. As God's son he is both humanity and deity. He was/is the

God-Man.

Dr. Truett was fond of saying, "He was God as though he were not man. He was man as though he were not God. He was the God-Man." Then he would add, "Never did hyphen mean so much!" It is as great a heresy to deny the humanity of Christ as it is to deny the deity of Jesus.

Saved by grace through faith, Paul has also been graced by receiving his apostleship (vs. 5). It is to the end that this gospel will be proclaimed to all nations or ethnic groups (ethnesin). In verse 6 Paul notes that all believers are called to both salvation and service.

But Paul has also been called to apostleship. An apostle was a pioneer, planting the gospel where it had never been preached. Hence his purpose to go to Spain (Rom. 15:19-24).

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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SS Board trustees elect Draper president



James T. Draper, Jr.

Home Board approves move

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Home Mission Board voted July 17 to move their national headquarters from midtown Atlanta to a new location 22 miles north in Alpharetta, Ga. Plans call for the new building to be completed in 1995 before the agency's 150th anniversary and the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in Atlanta, June 20-22, 1995.

The 11-member site and building committee narrowed the choice from 10 locations to three, and did detailed analyses of two potential sites before making the recommendation of the Preston Ridge development site.

Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis said the proposed location was also the unanimous choice of the agency's administration and a staff task force. A poll of the board's 396 Atlanta employees indicated most favored a north or northeast location.

Search committee chairman Ralph Smith of Austin, Texas, displayed an architectural model of how the proposed five-story building might look, and how the 34-acre site might be

landscaped. Initial plans call for an office building with about 175,000 square feet.

Since 1968, the board has occupied offices at 1350 Spring Street NW in the midtown area of Atlanta. The board hopes to maintain an Atlanta post office box and mailing address, Lewis said.

In July 1990 the board sold its five buildings and 6.3 acres of land to Am-Prop Georgia I Limited Partnership of Chicago for \$14.5 million and voted to lease the buildings until a new headquarters is completed in 1995.

Income from the sale of the property has been designated to buy the land and build the headquarters office, said Lewis.

The Atlanta-based Home Mission Board is a national agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Home Mission Board supports 4,573 missionaries involved in evangelism, ministry, and starting and strengthening Southern Baptist churches throughout the nation.

Newton writes for HMB.



PARTNERS — Vi Mason, left, a Southern Baptist volunteer from Tallahassee, Fla., shares a candid moment with Azima Baltabaeva Ibraeva, head pediatric doctor of a clinic at the edge of the dying Aral Sea in Kazakhstan. The sea, once the source of livelihood for people miles around, is now on the brink of extinction because its headwaters are being overdrained for irrigation. Mason and her husband, Ed, are working through the Central Asia Foundation to help distribute nutritious food in the area. During the Kazakh-American Cultural Festival June 21-July 6, a team of U.S. ecologists agreed to work through Kazakhstan's wildlife and fisheries department to help revitalize the Aral Sea. Kazakhstan is one of the Soviet Union's 15 republics. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — James T. Draper Jr. was elected without opposition July 18 to become the eighth president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The roll call vote, taken after a one hour and forty-five minute closed session, was 75 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention.

Draper, 55, pastor of First Church of Euless, Texas, and 1982-84 president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be installed Aug. 20 during the semi-annual meeting of trustees in Nashville. He will succeed Lloyd Elder who, after a lengthy dispute with trustees about his leadership at the board, reached agreement with trustees Jan. 17 to retire 30 days after election of a successor to lead the church programs and publishing agency.

Before the closed session, Wayne Dubose, chairman of the presidential search committee said his committee received nominations of 21 different people from about 70 Southern Baptists. The 10-member committee conducted "serious interviews" with eight nominees and held nine two-day meetings since being named Feb. 4.

Search committee member Kirk Humphreys, president of Century Investments, Inc., of Oklahoma City, Okla., said: "There is more to running the Sunday School Board than having your theology right."

"Management is leading people toward a common goal." He praised Draper as a man of courage, vision, and a motivator.

Leon Bolton, a dentist from Memphis, Tenn., was the only trustee who abstained in the vote. While pledging cooperation and support for Draper, he said, in his opinion, convincing evidence about Draper's management skills was not presented.

After the vote, Draper told trustees: "Carol Ann (his wife) and I have come to believe this is God's will for our lives. Today was the last piece of the puzzle. Thank you. We accept. We'll do our best to lead you in the way God would have us to."

Bill Anderson, chairman of trustees and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Clearwater, Fla., said Draper will receive the same salary Elder currently earns, but "there will be minor differences" in retirement benefits. Elder's salary was reported in January to be \$135,800.

"I will be slow to do a lot of reorganization," said Draper. "I don't make decisions slowly, but I sometimes gather facts slowly."

In selecting employees or naming writers for board publications or speakers at board-sponsored events, Draper said a high view of Scripture would be a requirement.

However, he said he would not re-

quire people to describe themselves as inerrantists if they were comfortable with terms such as "God-breathed," perfect, or infallible. "We (Southern Baptists) are people who believe the Bible."

As to whether he would enlist known moderates in the 12-year denominational controversy such as Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., to write or speak for the board, Draper, a conservative, said: "I would have a problem with that. We (Draper and Jackson) disagree on certain things but not on Scripture."

As president, Draper said he will emphasize a "positive rather than negative course. We will concentrate on producing quality materials."

"If we do that we'll be competitive. I'm not worried about competition. He said he will give attention to spiritual leadership, business leadership, organizational leadership, and people leadership. The board, under his direction, will focus on the basics of reaching people, evangelism, starting and growing churches, making disciples, and spreading God's Word around the world."

Draper, a Texas native, holds the bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the bachelor and master of divinity.

(See **DRAPER** on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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James Breland retires after "40 years of fun" at Delta State

By Anne W. McWilliams

"These have been 40 years of fun," said James Breland. His 40 years as Baptist Student Union director at Delta State University, Cleveland, probably represent the longest tenure of any student director in the SBC on one campus. Next week, July 31, he will retire.

From 1951 until 1970, local churches supported him, and since 1970 he has been an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Of the five presidents Delta State has had, Breland has worked with four. The number of students at the university during 40 years has increased from 400 to 4,000. MBCB bought property with a house for a BSU center in 1960 and built a new center in 1979. The local BSU Advisory Committee recently named the library of that building for Breland and hung his portrait there.

"I am proud," said Breland, "as I reflect on the numerous students in our program, how many of them are now BSU directors themselves, and how many are actively involved in their own churches."

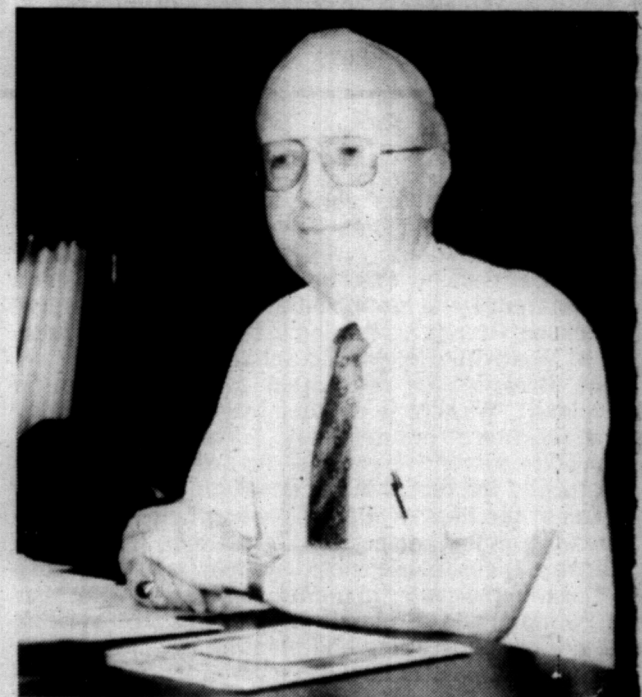
During his own college days, he surrendered to the ministry, thinking in terms of a pastorate, not knowing the Lord was leading him to student work. Born in Neshoba County, an only child, he was graduated from East Central Junior College, Delta State, and New Orleans Seminary. His father, Cliff Breland, is still a member of Linwood, where James was baptized at age 12.

When the position at Delta State became available in 1951, Breland's name came up, as he had been active in BSU in college and on the state BSU council. "When I took the job, I thought it might be two or three years. I never thought it would be 40! I've had opportunities to go elsewhere, but every time, I was convinced this was

the place to stay." One year, before Cleveland, he had taught high school mathematics at West.

His wife, Billie, has already retired from teaching in

(See **BRELAND** on page 4)



Jimmy Breland

Scott DOM for 30 years retires

A retirement program was held June 30, for Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Carlisle at Forest Church, Forest by the Scott County Baptist Association. Carlisle, director of missions for the association since September 1961, is retiring July 31.

Charles Moody, pastor of First Church, Morton, served as master of ceremonies. Testimonials concerning the mission work the Carlises and the association have been or are involved in were given by Harold Scott, Martha Ellen Marler, and Julius Ellis.

Eugene Dobbs, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was guest speaker.

Jeff Parker, minister of music, First Church, Morton, brought the special music, "There is a Balm in Gilead." Judi May sang the benediction, "Thank You."

The association presented the Carlises with a plaque, book of letters, and a monetary gift. Gray Calisle and daughter, Leif, unveiled and presented them a picture of the association building with churches Holmes has pastored surrounding it painted by Judy (Gray's wife). Julius Ellis, former pastor of East Side Church, now of Kansas, presented a plaque.

A reception was held in the church fellowship hall. Adorning the refreshment table were a cake in the shape of Scott County and a bouquet of two dozen roses.



Mr. and Mrs. Carlisle

Pray for your enemies

By Larry Otis

Several years ago, a state employee and his wife were visiting the annual session of the legislature, watching from the visitors' gallery. A legislator looked up and saw the man, and rose to his feet on the floor and proceeded to verbally attack the man seated in the visitors' gallery. The attack centered around the employee's trip to New Orleans on official business. While in New Orleans, during after hours the employee attended the evening sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention to which the legislator strongly objected. Quickly other members of the legislative body rose to defend the employee, his actions, and the fact that he went to the convention instead of the variety of other activities that he could have participated in while in New Orleans.

The employee, hurt by the stinging attack, returned home not knowing the direction to take — to return the attack, escalate the level of disagreement, or what to do. He turned to his pastor, outlined the events, and sought his advice. Knowing in his own mind that he wished to get even for the wrong done to him, his feelings were raw, his spirit crushed by this verbal attack on his personality and ethics.

The pastor, though younger in years, quickly turned in his Bible to a selection from Matthew 5:44 and read, "But I tell you; love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that they may be sons of your Father in heaven." This was not what the man wanted to hear, pray for his enemy, not him. The pastor quietly turned to other scripture such as Romans 12:14 and following: "Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse . . . Do not repay evil with evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it be possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Our hurting man sat there stunned, "Pray for this man," the pastor said. No way could he pray for this man and ask a blessing on him, thought our hurting man. Then the pastor carefully and gently lifted the entire matter to God in prayer. Our man, now quiet, agreed to attempt to pray for his "enemy."

Weeks passed, and our hurting man, seeking God's counsel, studied God's Word, and became convicted that indeed God meant for him to pray for his attacker. Convicted and convinced of God's leadership, our man and his wife prayed in earnest for the verbal attacker. Peace began to grow in our man's heart and his life. Convicted that this was right, he studied and sought God in this matter.

In the passing of time, God answered those prayers; the legislator did not seek re-election to that post, and a friendship developed in place of anger and mistrust. Then later the legislator, having problems in his own life, sought out our man and requested that he offer prayer for an ailing child. God's Word prevailed and became stronger in the hearts of both men.

Our man, wiser and more experienced, grew in Christian love that came from these events, and the caring spiritual support of a loving pastor and friend.

Let us all, young and old, when faced with the "enemy" turn to God, his Word, and the counsel of our Christian pastors and friends. God answers our needs in prayer, and removes the "thorn in our side," if we seek his face and do his will.

Otis is a Tupelo layman.

Kirkpatrick succeeds Breland at Delta State

After 11 years as Baptist Student Union director at Pearl River Community College, Bill Kirkpatrick has resigned to accept a similar position at Delta State University, Cleveland.



Kirkpatrick

He will succeed James Breland, who has been Baptist student director at Delta State University for 40 years and is retiring on July 31.

A reception was held in Kirkpatrick's honor on July 7 at First Church, Poplarville.

Kirkpatrick, who was born in Dallas, Tex., is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Patricia, have three children, Beth, Laura, and David.

Since 1987, he has also been instructor in Old and New Testament Survey at Pearl River Community College. Before moving to Poplarville in 1979, he was pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Lufkin, Tex., and part-time Baptist Student Union director for Angelina Community College, Lufkin.

Calvary, Cleveland. He and his wife are members of First Church. Also the president of the university recognized him, along with faculty, by presenting to him an engraved silver bowl, a lifetime parking permit, a lifetime faculty activities card, and a life membership in the alumni association.

Matthew 6:33 remains his motto: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

"I am grateful," he said, "I have had a good response from the students, even during the years of the 60s when there was lots of criticism of the church. If I could start over, I wouldn't want to change anything, except try to do a better job."

Jerry Merriman, director, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said, "Jimmy Breland has been the epitome of servant leadership. His example has been Christ-centered and consistent; his commitment to the highest ideals in the work has been unwavering; and his faithful service has been an inspiration. The impact of his contribution to Baptist Student Union at both local and state levels has been immeasurable."

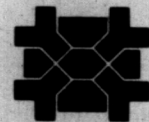
If you are standing upright, don't worry if your shadow looks crooked. They are able because they think they are able. — Vergil — Aeneid

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BRELAND From page 3

elementary school. The year he became Baptist student director, she entered Delta State as a student. A year after her graduation, in 1954, they got married. Their daughter, Brenda, who has both bachelor's and master's degrees from Delta State, and their two grandsons live in Jackson. Brenda is married to the minister of education at Woodville Heights Church, Dwayne Sims.

The Brelands in retirement plan to remain in Cleveland: "We hope to do some traveling and possibly some short-term mission work, perhaps with BSU in some of the newer conventions." An ardent gardener, he is naturally interested in the development of a prayer garden at the Baptist student center; he plans to continue work on that project. For this garden, Jesse White, chairman, Biological Sciences Division, Delta State, gave a lot next to the center in memory of his late wife, Minnie Patton White. Breland and students are working together on landscaping and planting it.

Retirement parties have been given by fellow directors, Advisory Committee, and two churches, First and

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Check with us for special events throughout the year.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 25, 1991

HouseTops is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



When Being Religious is Not Enough

by Beth Holmes, Mississippi Christian Action Commission

My greatest struggle in bearing personal witness has not been to the person who saw themselves as lost, but to a person who felt religiously secure because they were reared in a supposedly religious home or by parents who attended church. Over the years I have discovered that there are several facets to witnessing to and winning such a person to Christ.

IDENTIFY with the person and the problems he or she may be experiencing. I have found that developing a real friendship with the person is the beginning point of witness. This is an ideal time to learn and come to understand the religious beliefs and practices of the individual and his family.

INVEST time in the person. Time spent in some commonly enjoyed activity allows opportunity for the person to open up and share problems. I have found that it also provides occasion for the unsaved person to observe how I live my faith and the way I deal with problems in my life. Often they may ask questions that reveal their misunderstandings about a personal relationship with Christ.

INTRODUCE the person to a living loving Saviour by first sharing your own testimony. The Lord will lead as you share experiences of forgiven sin out of your own life that the person may relate to best. Often an adult who hasn't walked with the Lord will feel that their sins are too awful or too numerous to be forgiven. Your testimony can help them see that all sin can be forgiven.

INFORM the person of what scripture says about eternal life. This is now the time to present a simple plan of salvation that can clear up the confusion and misunderstanding. Some of the scriptures that are generally used are:

Romans 3:23 - Here the focus could be that we are all sinners and no person is better than any other.

Romans 6:23 - While death is the payment for sin, the free gift of God is eternal life which cannot be earned.

Acts 3:19 - Repentance or a willful change of life's direction is necessary.

Ephesians 2:8 - Again it is God's free gift (grace) in

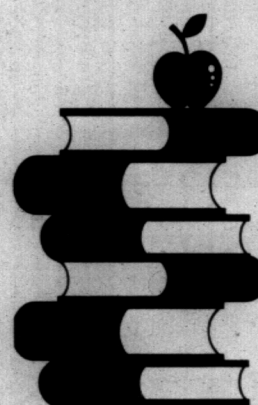
Christ that saves us and man can do nothing to bring his salvation.

Romans 10:9-10 - Confessing Christ as the center of your life (Lord) and believing in the resurrected Christ brings the promise of salvation.

1 John 1:9 - Assurance comes as we obediently confess our sins knowing that He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

INVITE the person to accept Christ as their Saviour and Lord. INVITE them to pray in Jesus' name for forgiveness and acceptance of God's provided salvation. INVITE your new brother or sister to your church and provide them opportunity to publicly acknowledge what Christ has done in their life. **HT**

This series of articles deals with how to become a Christian or how to share your faith. Articles by others will follow in future issues of HouseTops.



LEARN HOW TO TEACH SOMEONE TO READ!

15-hour Literacy Workshop
Camp Garaywa
August 15 and 16

TEACHER: Juanita Schilling

Workshop begins at 9 a.m. on the 15th and concludes at 2:30 p.m. on the 16th. Participation is by pre-registration only. Deadline is August 1.

COST: \$50 (registration, books, meals, lodging) (This is a special track offered during WMU Church Leadership Training)

Town and Country



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

Designed for all church music leadership but especially for those from churches with fewer than 200 members

Area II

Thursday-Friday, August 15-16, 1991

MEADOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, AMORY, MS

LEADER: Elmo Mercer, noted composer and arranger from Nashville, TN

Area III

Friday-Saturday, August 16-17, 1991

GASTON BAPTIST CHURCH, BOONVILLE, MS

LEADER: Tommy Keown, Small Church/Associational Music Consultant, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

REGISTRATION: \$5 per person should be sent to Danny Jones, Church Music Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Indicate conference location.



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Making Good Marriages Better

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
August 23-24, 1991

Led by:

Dr. Carl Dickerson

- Pastor of Magnolia Baptist Church, Laurel, MS
- Private counseling practice
- Marriage and family seminar leader
- Family ministry Area Representative

Retreat begins on Friday with supper at 5:30 p.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday

Total cost: \$65 per couple

To register mail check for total amount to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Sponsored by the Family Ministry Section of the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson.

Fall Festival of Marriage

For Love and Money

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
September 20-22, 1991

General Sessions

Keynote Speaker: Harry Lucenay, Pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX

*Workshops on financial management and
personal relationships.*

Begins with Registration at 2:00 p.m. Friday First session at 6:30 p.m. Concludes at noon Sunday.

Program fee: \$70 per couple, after August 1; \$65 per couple, before August 1; \$60 per group of 10 or more couples or if a minister.

To register, send \$45 deposit to Fall Festivals of Marriage, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203. Include spouse's name. Hotel information will be sent with confirmation. Participants are responsible for their own hotel arrangements at special rates.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, New Orleans Seminary, and Mississippi and Louisiana Baptist Conventions.

For a brochure on other Fall Festivals of Marriage, write or call Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1-3 | Sunday School Leadership Conference.....Gulfshore |
| 8-10 | Sunday School Leadership Conference.....Gulfshore |
| 27 | Roll-Out Celebration.....Baptist Building |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 6-7 | Sunday School Leadership Conference.....Gulfshore |
| 13-14 | Sunday School Leadership Conference.....Gulfshore |
| 29 | Day of Prayer for Sunday School BREAKTHROUGH |

"WHAT SEMINARY EXTENSION MEANS TO ME"

"Being a man that God has called into the ministry only a short while ago (7 months) and a man of not much education and a man that had not had any Bible other than that received by the church and what the Holy Spirit has taught me, this Seminary Extension class on "How to Understand the Bible" has helped me greatly. The writer's objectives: to present an overall view of the Bible; to inspire the student to a careful study of the contents of the Bible; a call to faith in God and its message concerning his will for men, has meant much to me. I thank God for opening the door for me through this class so that I could better prepare myself to be God's servant!"



*Danny Spratlin, pastor
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church
Calhoun County*

.....

Seminary Extension has and does mean a great deal to me. I was called later in life to the ministry and do not feel that I can afford the luxury of a formal seminary education. Seminary Extension helps me acquire the tools needed for the pastorate.



Winning people to Christ through personal soul winning and preaching is a gift God has given me, but growing a new Christian into a mature Christian is not so easy and not one of the gifts that I possess. Administrative duties of the pastorate is also not an area of my gifts. I depend upon Seminary Extension and the very qualified instructors such as Dr. Anthony Kay to help fill in these gaps."

*Tommy Cherry, pastor
Sabougla Baptist Church
Calhoun County*

Contact the Cooperative Missions Department for information concerning Seminary Extension. Courses are offered in approximately 20 locations across Mississippi. **HT**

Mission Trip to Peoria

By Tim Nicholas

As a result of a group of Mississippi Baptists' mission trip, an Illinois pastor exclaimed "It's like old times; the enthusiasm is coming back."

That enthusiasm was the result of the travels in May of 18 Mississippians to the greater Peoria area to lead in prospect discovery and in training Sunday School leadership in witnessing and evangelistic Sunday School teaching.

The pastor quoted, Bobby Barnhill of McArthur Drive Church, has been pastor there for 20 years and the only pastor the church has had. The enthusiasm he was talking about was for winning lost people to Christ.

During the McArthur Drive witness training, three people made professions of faith. The Sunday School leaders "came back thrilled to death," said Geneva Guess, who, with her husband Curtis, was a part of the Mississippi

group. Curtis is pastor of Pine Grove Church in Neshoba County. One of those won was a person the church had been praying for.

"It's like old times; the enthusiasm is coming back."

The 18 volunteers worked in nine churches in the Peoria area involving 69 in a People Search, visiting 659 homes, discovering 175 prospects, and making 39 evangelistic visits.

Basically, the churches reported good results. Said Ed McAlister, pastor of Harvard Hills Church and a native Mississippian, "As a result of our work we doubled our Sunday School attendance."

Don Smith, pastor of Dayton Avenue Church, said, "All in all, it was a good week and left our church more motivated to reach out to people. Since that time we have had a very good Vacation Bible School accompanied by several professions of faith."

The project, a part of the Illinois-Mississippi Missions Partnership, was coordinated by Keith Williams, consultant in the MBCB's Sunday School Department. "What we helped them do was to show how to present the gospel during Sunday School to adults and youths," said Williams. "We also helped preschool and children's workers understand their responsibility in building good foundations with the parents of their members and prospects."

Williams said such training is valuable. Non-Christians "are three times more likely to accept Jesus Christ in a Sunday School class than in a worship service," he said. "The reason we're not growing like we once did is we're not bringing lost people into our Sunday School classes." **HT**

And
in this
corner . . .



Let's face it. Sometimes church meetings resemble prizefights more than constructive efforts to do the work of the church. Does this mean that the church members are not Christians? Not at all. It simply means that they care deeply about their church and the way it should minister.

The important matter about church conflict is not whether it exists but how we handle it. How to Handle Conflict in the Church, a six-session Equipping Center module, will equip adults to understand and deal with church conflict. Participants will learn how to recognize and resolve people problems, situation problems, and spiritual problems, as well as learn the causes of these conflicts. As they examine conflicting expectations, priorities, and values in their church, they will learn to work together under the Spirit's leadership to make decisions that reflect God's purposes for their church.

Learn how to resolve conflict redemptively. How to Handle Conflict in the Church (item 7901-71) is available from Baptist Book Stores and from the Customer Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-BSSB.

HT

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AUGUST 10, 1991

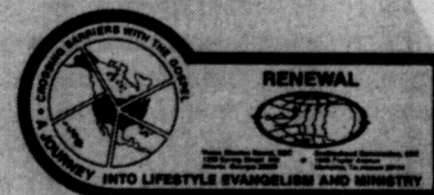
First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Grant Shipp, Coordinator

AUGUST 17, 1991

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada
Sidney Ellis, Coordinator

Conferences will be conducted for the following areas:

- Renewal Coordinators
- Youth Coordinators
- Adult Team Members
- Youth Team Members
- Children's Workers



This event is sponsored by the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Cost - \$150 per person.

Reservations accepted now.
No refunds after September 6.

REGISTRATION

Please register me/us for
Gulfshore Autumn Fest,
October 14-18, 1991.

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(\$30 per person deposit payable to
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly).

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Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Church _____

Association _____

Mail to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571.
Phone (601) 452-7261.



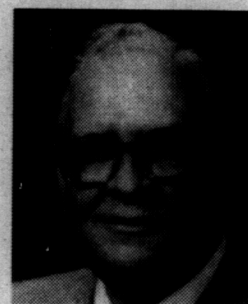
October 14-18, 1991
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

A Different Approach to Senior Adult Retreats
Theme: The Power to Bless

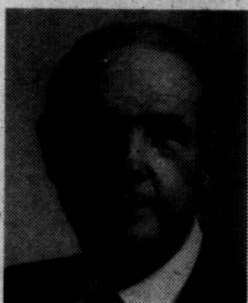
Featuring: Nationally Known
Senior Adult Leaders



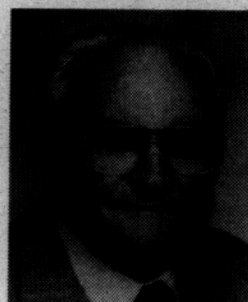
Myron C. Madden
- Evening Theme Speaker



J. Clark Hensley
- Morning Bible Study Leader



Kermit S. King
- "Senior Adult Ministry Hour" leader



W. W. Walley
- "Special Feature"

Keith and Barbara Bennett - Music Leader and Performers, Concert singers.
Irene Martin - Pianist
Elsie Berryhill - Organist
Roger Alewine - Afternoon Tours Director



Pictured are members of the 1991 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people, representing 17 campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 20 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and approximately 1,500 for three CENTRIFUGE camps, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

1991 GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY SUMMER STAFF

FRONT ROW: (left to right) ALANNA BRELAND, Picayune, WCC; WESLEA CALHOUN, Mendenhall, MC; MARY WHITTEN, Oxford, NECC; TINA McMULLEN, Maben, MSU; JANE LEE, Long Beach, USM; PENNY WALDRIP, Lucedale, USM; TRES' ZIEGLER, Mendenhall, MC; SUZANNE BREWER, Gulfport, MSU; CARREN ARNETTE, McDavid, FL, WCC; EMILY CAIN, Louisville, WCC; HOLLY ESTES, Brookhaven, Co-Lin; JANA WARD, Columbia, USM; SHARYL CLINTON, Columbia, OLE MISS.

SECOND ROW: BRUCE SALSMAN, Fort Worth, Houseparent; DEBY SALSMAN, Fort Worth, Houseparent; TAMMY WILLIAMS, Booneville, NECC; KIM ADAMS, Bentonia, MSU; ANGELA GORDON, Tupelo, MSU; KEVIN DONALD, Picayune, PRCC; JAMIE CARVER, Gulfport, Livingston; JANET McMULLEN, Maben, MSU; KEN McCREARY, Wesson, USM; AMY BEACHUM, Tupelo, MSU; ELLEN SMITH, Greenville, DSU.

THIRD ROW: BRAD WEBB, Bay Springs, USM; BEN BRYANT, Bay Springs, Jones; CHAD McMULLIN, Amory, MSU; GRETCHEN KLEEB, Magee, Jones; KELLY BYARD, Gulfport, MC; KIMMIE CROOK, Jackson, USM; TONY SMITH, Weir, MSU; MARK GREGER, Biloxi, MSU; MIKE McGEE, Corinth, USM; PRESTON GORDON, Summit, USM; JEFF SIMMONS, Long Beach, MGCCC; MARTY ROBINSON, Florence, Wesley; ALLEN HENDRIX, Abilene, TX, McMurry.

FOURTH ROW: TOM SLADE, Vancleave, MSU; BRENT RICHARDSON, Kosciusko, MSU; DRUE HOWARTH, Boyle, DSU; WAYNE CORNELIUS, Corinth, NECC; TODD WILLIS, Aberdeen, MSU; CHARDELL WILSON, Benoit, MDCC; JOE CURET, Gulfport, MC; FRANK SIMMONS, Long Beach, Manager.

NOT PICTURED: PAULA HALEY, Goodman, UMC; ANITA HARRINGTON, Mantee, MSU; TROY HIGHT, Philadelphia, MSU; TREY LOVERN, Greenville, MDCC; TIM STARLING, Baldwin, NECC.

HOUSE OF

Revival dates

Antioch (Jasper): July 28-31; Sun-School, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m., dinner at church; 1:30 p.m. afternoon service; Mon-Wed., 7:15 p.m.; Lindy Reed, Birchwood Church, Independence, Mo., evangelist; Gene Con, music; Carey Bass, pastor.

Branch Church, Morton (Scott): July 28-31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison Association, Jackson, evangelist; Richard Sparks, Puckett Church, music; James E. Watts, pastor.

Clear Branch Church, Florence (Rankin): July 28-Aug. 2; Allen Stephens, pastor, First Church, Richland, evangelist; E. C. Harpe, First Church, Richland, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds at noon; 7 p.m. nightly; R. C. Rice, pastor.

Clear Creek Church (Marion): July 28-31; Johnny H. Breazeale, evangelist; Mel Stafford, music evangelist; Noel Hudson, pastor.

Corinth Church, Magee (Simpson): July 21-26; 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily; family night, Thurs.; Mike Thompson, Magee, evangelist; Lavon Gray, Carriere, music; Billy Guest, pastor.

County Line (Attala): July 28-31; Sun., homecoming 11 a.m. with lunch at church; revival starts 7 p.m. Sun.; 7:30 p.m. during week; Jack Nazary, pastor, Midway, Carthage, evangelist; Harry Daniels, Carthage, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Ebenezer Church (Holmes): July 28-31; Sunday, homecoming, Joe Canzari, former pastor, preaching, and dinner on the grounds; revival starts Sunday night, Danny Dodds, Second Church, Kosciusko, preaching; Robb Robinson, Sallis, music; Billy Barren, pastor.

First Church, Fannin (Rankin): July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; J. Garland McKee, director, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Bill Clark, music; Fred Tarpley, pastor.

First Church, Marion (Lauderdale): revival, July 28; John "Bull" Bramlett, layman, former professional football player, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; services, 11 a.m., 6 p.m. youth, and 7 p.m.; Walter Blackman, pastor.

Friendship Church, Ellisville (Jones): July 29-31; Bill Riley, singer, evangelist; Paula Beech, Friendship Church, music; services, 7 p.m.

Gillsburg Church, Amite County: July 28-31; Sun-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; dinner on the grounds, Sun.; youth night, Mon.; children's night, Tues.; whole church ice cream fellowship, Wed.; Bill Stewart, First Church, Eupora, evangelist; Boyd Treedy, Hattiesburg, music; Paul Parson, pastor.

Harmony Church, Louisville: July 28-Aug. 2; Edward Knox, New Palestine Church, Picayune, evangelist; Don Wallace, Harmony Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

Kilmichael Church (Montgomery): July 28-Aug. 2; John L. Walker, pastor, First Church, Winona, evangelist; Laverne Pickett, Ackerman Church, Ackerman, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Joe P. Crout, pastor.

Lolola Springs Church, Caledonia (Lindsey): July 28-Aug. 1; Johnny Parak, evangelist; Charlie Farrar, music director; Sunday services, 7 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Don Harding, pastor.

Macedonia Church, Southaven: July 28-31; W. B. Oakley, evangelist; music by Kimberly Meeks, 1990 Miss Jackson State Community College, and Betty Jo Cline.

Macedonia Church, Tupelo: July 28-Aug. 2; Jimmy Russell, evangelist, and Steve Parish, music, Friendship Church, Pontotoc; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Marion Payne, pastor.

McAdams Church (Attala): July 28-Aug. 2; 10:30 a.m. devotional, and 7 p.m.; Charles Steele, Copeland Church, St. Joseph, Mo., evangelist; Ronnie and Suzanne Ables, McAdams Church, music; Jimmy Kettleman Jr., pastor.

McCool Church (Attala): July 28-Aug. 1; Sunday, 11 a.m., basket lunch at noon, and 7 p.m.; week nights, 7:30 p.m.; Tues. and Wed., 10:30 a.m.; Kenny Digby, Fulton, evangelist; James Lee Bailey, pastor.

Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale: July 28-Aug. 1; Gary M. Bowlin, evangelist; Shelly Johnston, music; Joe Jackson, interim pastor; services, 7 p.m.

Mt. Olive Church, Black Hawk: July 28-Aug. 2; Rob Pelkey, pastor, Calvary Church, Bruce, evangelist; Steve Shirk, music; Larry Edwards, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Carrollton: July 28-Aug. 2; Ron Bragg, Jackson, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton Church, music; services, 7:30 p.m.; Stan Costilow, pastor.

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in Family Life Center, and 1:15 p.m. service; Mon-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Randy Lewman, preaching; Stacey Smith, music; Randy Lewman, pastor.

New Hope Church, Magee: July 28-31; Kenneth Roberts, interim pastor, speaker; W. W. Hollyfield, music.

New Hope Church, Meridian: July 28-Aug. 1; Tommy Dobbins, First Church, Donalsonville, Ga., evangelist; Chris Lee, Westwood Church, Meridian, music; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mike Everett, pastor.

New Sardis Church, Mount Olive: July 28-Aug. 2; Jimmy Woods, pastor, Paul Truitt Memorial Church (Rankin) preaching; Bobby Shurden, leading the singing; Don C. Henderson, pastor; Sunday, dinner on the grounds with singing concert to follow.

New Salem, Liberty (Mississippi): July 28-31; Sun., 10 a.m. worship, dinner on the grounds, baptismal service at the river; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Brad Smith, First Church, Tickfaw, La., evangelist, with his ventriloquist's dummy, "Grandy"; David Fortenberry, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Woodland: July 28-Aug. 2; James Travis, Bible professor at Blue Mountain College, evangelist; Richard Bolin, minister of music, East Highland Church, Hartselle, Ala., music; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Barron Pilgrim, pastor.

Sardis Church (Copiah): July 28-31; Foy Killingsworth, pastor, Weathersby Church, Weathersby, evangelist; Dorothy Jasper, Sardis Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; J. A. McCain, pastor.

Salem Church, Collins: July 28-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. service, Bruce Magee, speaking, dinner on the grounds, and Dorman Laird speaking at 6:30 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joel Abel speaking on Monday, Michael Davis on Tuesday, and Don Dobson on Wednesday; Gwen Hitt, music; special music by choirs of churches represented by speakers; Ronald E. Bishop, pastor.

Tyro Church (Northwest): July 28-Aug. 2; services, 7 p.m.; Tom Hood, evangelist; Kenny Adams, music; Gary Newton, pastor.

Vaiden Church, Vaiden: July 28-Aug. 2; Ken Talley, music; Earl Ezell, evangelist; services 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Leon Holly, pastor.

Antioch Church (Rankin): July 28-Aug. 2; homecoming, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Mon-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Don Savell, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, music; Larry Duncan, pastor.

Ludlow Church (Scott): July 28-31; Charles Moody, pastor, First Church, Morton, evangelist; Billy Charles Beavers, Forkville, leading music; services Sunday — Sunday School at 10 a.m. worship at 11 a.m., an old-fashioned dinner on the grounds at noon; old-time gospel singing at 1:30 p.m. featuring "Heartland" of Morton; week night services at 7:30; Tommy Miles, pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Brewer Church, Richton: June 10-14; Michael McLendon, pastor, reports that 13 children and youth accepted Christ and they averaged 45 children in a five day VBS period.

Country Woods Church, Jackson: July 28-Aug. 2; 6 p.m.-8:45 p.m.; three years old-sixth grade; registration and kick off party, Sunday, July 28, 5 p.m.; Gary M. Bunch, pastor.

DRAPER From page 3

degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He holds honorary doctorates from Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas; Dallas (Texas) Baptist University, and Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.

He and his wife are the parents of

Southwestern graduates five Mississippians

FORT WORTH, Texas — Avoid compromise, Houston Baptist University President Douglas Hodo told Southwestern Seminary's summer graduating class.

"If there is one thing the Adversary would have each of us do, whether we are pastors or laypeople, it is to compromise," he said.

Southwestern President Russell Dillard conferred degrees on 142 students, including five from Mississippi.

They are: with the master of arts in religious education, Barbara A.

Staff changes

Pleasant Hill Church, Bogue Chitto, has called Debra Ann "Debbie" Hudson as minister of education, music, and youth, effective June 23. A native of Batesville, she received her education at Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. Her previous place of service was Birmingham Church, Saltillo. Floyd Higginbotham is pastor.

Harmontown Church, Lafayette Association, has called Barry Littlefield as pastor, effective July 28. A native of Adamsville, Tenn., he received his education at Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Whitehall Church, Trenton, Tenn.



Littlefield



Peagler

Jerry Peagler has resigned his position as minister of music and youth at Calvary Church, Vicksburg, to accept the position as minister of music and youth at First Church, Raleigh.

two sons and one daughter.

In other business items in the called meeting, trustees voted to move the Aug. 18-20 semi-annual meeting from Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to Nashville for Draper's installation.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Just for the Record



A note burning ceremony was held on June 30 at Harmontown Church, Harmontown, for its fellowship hall at a cost of \$65,000. Pictured, left to right, first row, are Don Stanfill, director of missions for Lafayette and Marshal Associations; Marcus Laughlin, vice-chairman of deacons; Paul Crawford, chairman of deacons; second row, Glen Haring, Tommy Cook, Lester McNabb, Robert Stubbs, Marvin Brown, James McNeer, and Ed Williams, deacons. "The ten year loan of \$30,000 was made in March 1990 and paid off March 1991. Special debt retirement offering of \$6,051 was received on Easter Sunday. All of this was done while giving 22 percent of the total budget to missions. The church also gave over \$2,200 to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and over \$1,200 to Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," says Paul Crawford, chairman of deacons. Trent Grubbs, pastor, retired in August 1990.

Thursday, July 25, 1991

Hollowell of Columbus and Vernon L. Thornhill of Jayess; with the master of divinity, Phillip Carl Herrington of Laurel; with the master of music, Jeff Chamblee of Grenada; and, with the associate of divinity, Wyatt Sonny Mills Jr. of Nettleton.

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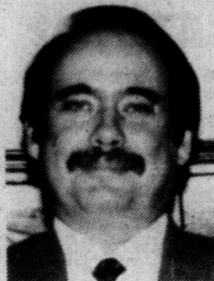
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Names in the news

Eddie Bates was licensed to preach the gospel on May 12. He is a member of Enon Church, Jayess, and is available for supply, pastor, and revivals. He is enrolled in New Orleans Seminary. Bates can be contacted by calling (601) 876-3616 or writing Rt. 3 Box 273A, Jayess, MS 39641. Kenneth Moore is pastor of Enon Church.



Bates

Jeff R. McLelland, assistant professor of music at William Carey Col-

lege, recently won first prize in the regional level of the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance of the American Guild of Organists at the Regional Convention in Mobile. In addition to his teaching organ, music history, conducting, and directing the ensembles at Carey, he also is organist at First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg.

Lewis Oswalt, assistant professor of music at Mississippi College, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference representing the Education Division, eastern U.S., for a two-year term.



Clerk retires

Mississippi Baptist Association recently honored Ruth Dixon upon her retirement as clerk. She had served for 18 years. Shown with Mrs. Dixon (center) is Mrs. David Fortenberry, pastor's wife of New Salem Church, where Mrs. Dixon is a member, presenting her with a corsage. To the right is J. Paul Jones, director of missions, who presented Mrs. Dixon with a plaque expressing appreciation of the association for her faithful, dedicated work as clerk. Maurice F. Wicker, recently retired pastor of East Fork Church, has been elected to succeed Mrs. Dixon as clerk.

evangelistic missionary in Israel, guest minister; dinner in fellowship hall; youth group from Memphis, Tenn., singing in the afternoon; Gaston Jones, pastor.

First Church, Ovett (Jones): Aug. 4, Jimmy Manning to speak at 11 a.m. service; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; no night service; Tommy Mangum, pastor.

Homecomings

First Church, Pontotoc: July 28; 11 a.m.; Jimmy Smith, pastor, First Church, Plantersville, guest speaker; further activities include a covered dish luncheon, a men's cake auction and a 2 p.m. program presented by the music ministry of the church; Ed Deuschle is pastor.

Antioch Church (Greene): July 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Burnise Havard, lay person, Benndale Church, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon service; Arthur Burnett, former pastor, guest speaker; special music by the Burnett family; Mike Meriwether, pastor.

Springfield Church, Natchez: July 28; 41st anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Barry Wilkinson, former pastor, speaker; dinner following morning service in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; Michael McCarty Townsend, pastor.

Friendship Church, Ellisville (Jones): July 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; service, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Bill Riley, Stringer, guest speaker.

Big Springs Church (Lincoln): Aug. 4; worship 11 a.m.; Dennis Murray, Eldorado, Ark., serving as

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LETTERS FROM CAREY - Carey on the Coast

By Dr. Bill Payne, Dean of William Carey College on the Coast

July 25, 1991

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

The Board of Trustees and the Administration of William Carey College demonstrated a great deal of faith in 1976 by purchasing the Gulf Coast Military Academy campus and establishing Christian education programs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The campus is located on Highway 90 in Gulfport across from the beautiful Mississippi Sound. William Carey College on the Coast is the only accredited senior college on the Gulf Coast that offers college courses from the freshman level through the graduate level of instruction.

This coming fall the Gulf Coast campus will celebrate 15 years of operation. The faith that was evident in 1976 has begun to materialize in a growing, vibrant campus. The record enrollment gains of 40 - 60% achieved during the 1990-1991 school year have increased the demand for an expanded curriculum and additional faculty. President Jim Edwards recently displayed great faith in the future of the Gulfport campus by announcing three new programs and the appointment of seven new faculty to help meet the educational needs of the Gulf Coast region.

MBA PROGRAM

A new Master of Business Administration in Executive Leadership (EL-MBA) degree is the most recent program to be announced. This program is designed in a one-year plan for working adults who have undergraduate business degrees and in a two-year plan for undergraduates in engineering, arts and sciences, and humanities. Work experience in leadership roles in business, government and community service will be a major factor in the admission of EL-MBA students. Edwards and three other top executives at William Carey will teach in the program. Additionally, leaders from the Gulf Coast area will teach as Executives-in-Residence in the program.

Four faculty have recently been hired to strengthen the business programs on the Coast and in Hattiesburg. David Manifold, a Gulf Coast financial executive and CPA has been appointed as Coordinator of the EL-MBA Program. Manifold has taught finance and accounting on an adjunct basis at Carey and USM. He has graduate degrees from Tulane and UNO. Manifold has been appointed as Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership at William Carey, an organization designed to assist new businesses and entrepreneurs.

Beth Henthorne, a health care consultant and former College of Business staff and faculty member at USM has joined the Carey business faculty. Dr. Henthorne, who has worked in an administrative capacity at the Hattiesburg clinic, is a well known speaker and writer on women's health care concerns.

Scott Julian, who is currently completing doctoral studies at Louisiana State University, has recently joined the business faculty. His major interests and publications focus on strategic planning and technology management. Virginia Covington has been hired to teach managerial communications and speech. Dr. Covington has taught previously at Mississippi College and USM in the areas of communications and speech. She has consulting experience in business and community service and conducts workshops in various areas of communications.

The new MBA program is flexibly designed with an interdisciplinary emphasis on management leadership and concentrations available in one of the following four areas: Entrepreneurship and Economics, Organization and Operations Management, Health Care Management, and Public Sector Management.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND NURSING

A new undergraduate major in physical education will be available this fall on the Coast campus. Bill Findley was recently selected to serve as instructor of physical education and coach of the women's soccer team. Findley has coached soccer on the international level in the armed services following an outstanding collegiate career as a player.

The bachelor of science in nursing program, which presently enrolls the largest number of majors at William Carey College, continues to expand. To meet increased enrollment demands, two new full-time nursing faculty have been hired. Joanne Hugo, who has previously served at Singing River and Biloxi Regional hospitals has recently joined the faculty. She has completed the BSN and MSN degrees in nursing and is a Gulfport resident.

Marilyn Cooksey of Moss Point has also joined the nursing Carey faculty on a full-time basis. She has previously served in nursing positions at Singing River Hospital and Ingalls Shipbuilding. Cooksey has the MSN degree from the University of South Alabama and bachelor degrees in nursing and biology from the University of Mississippi and USM.

GENERAL STUDIES

The new Bachelor's Degree Program in General Studies is for adult students who are interested in an interdisciplinary major that can incorporate transfer credit including a technical major at the community college level. This program is ideal suited for the non-traditional student already in the work force or in the armed services who needs flexible, individually designed program to meet individual needs.

In summary these new and expanding programs on the Coast campus are designed to meet specific educational needs and we are pleased that more people are choosing to continue their formal education with us. One important key to the economic development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast is the constantly upgrade the education level and skills of the potential and present work force in the region. These people will be our community and church leaders in the future. The new programs and faculty of the Coast campus are further indications of the College's commitment to meet Christian education needs in the region and faith that we can improve the quality of life in Mississippi.

(P.S. Next Week - The College of Choice)

Solomon erects and dedicates the temple

By Randy W. Turner
1 Kings 8:1-66

Fred Craddock has posed an interesting question for our consideration. He asks, "What is the church anyway?" In a series of five lectures he



Turner

answers the question. He defines the church as the book, the table, the pew, the pulpit, and finally, the place. When you define the church as the place you immediately have to defend that definition. When we have defined the church, traditionally we have emphasized that the church is not a place, but people. The fact is, in a very real sense, the church is a

place.

The temple that Solomon erected and dedicated to God was indeed a place — a magnificent place, a place where God would be worshipped, a place where the Word of God would occupy a place of great prominence, a place where the will of God and the way of God would be proclaimed to the people of God. The central Bible truth of this lesson is that Solomon's dedication of the temple shows that our commitment to God should be reflected both in our worship and in our daily lives. The

BIBLE BOOK

temple provided a place where this reality could be learned and then lived out.

As the tabernacle in the wilderness was solemnly consecrated to the worship of Jehovah, so now must the grander house be dedicated with becoming solemnities to the same lofty purpose. As Moses, the inspired servant of Jehovah, was the chosen one to consecrate the tabernacle; so Solomon, the divinely chosen king in Zion in whose person the Hebrew monarchy at this time reached the highest summit of its glory, was the only proper person to consecrate the temple. No priest could perform this holy service as properly as he. No other person in the realm had consecrated in himself at that time such sanctity, exaltation, and power.

The first step in the august ceremony was the removal of the ark from the tabernacle of David on Mount Zion to the most holy place in the new temple on Mount Moriah. Here the thought is suggested that as the ark contained the tables of the law, so the church is the sacred depository of the divine Word.

I. The call to dedication (1 Kings 8:6-9). The divine Word of God was the irresistible rally-

ing cry of a whole nation. The mention of the ark of God gathered the Hebrew people to one common purpose, the dedication of the temple. It is the Word of God that makes the most profound impression on the heart and that shapes and determines destiny.

As in Solomon's temple, the divine Word finds its permanent home in the holiest place of the church. There it is protected, and it is intended to remain and is most highly prized. Where his Word is, there the Lord dwells and is enthroned. It is the soul of every house of God and indeed gives it its consecration.

II. The cloud of divine glory (1 Kings 8:10-11). This cloud of the Lord was the visible symbol of the divine presence in the midst of his people. It indicated that the glory of the divine character is beyond the comprehension of the human mind. This presence of God is the true consecration of every Christian sanctuary. This divine glory of God is sometimes manifested in overwhelming majesty. The priests staggered under the awesome manifestation. It is worthy of note too that the power of God came down while the worshippers were in the act of praising.

III. The consequence of disobedience (1 Kings 8:35-36a). Even in the midst of this great celebration, it was important to remind the peo-

ple of the consequences of disobedience. Prosperity is a blessing from God. But with prosperity often come perils. The abuse of prosperity is followed with inevitable punishment. Disobedience always has its consequences. However, these verses reveal the good news of a gracious God. When we pray, confess, and turn from our sin he has assured us he will hear from heaven and provide forgiveness.

IV. The committed obey his decrees (1 Kings 8:59-61). Holy living is the supreme goal of life. The issue is more than just reading the Word of God and more than just believing the Word of God. The real test comes in our obedience to the Word of God. Genuine commitment always results in obedience to God's Word. Obedience to God's Word always moves us toward holy living.

We all need that place of peace, comfort, security, and safety. The church should be that place. The temple that Solomon dedicated was a place. The church that we worship in today is, among other things, a place; but we should never mistake it for the Place. Rabbi Silverman of Vanderbilt Divinity School always said that his favorite designation for God was the name that meant "the Place." The church is "a place" where we can find God who is "the Place."

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

And justice for all — our heritage and responsibility

By Don Dobson
1 Kings 21:7, 15-20, 27

As the Pledge of Allegiance to our flags end, the haunting words "And justice for all" remind us of our heritage and responsibility.



Dobson

We as citizens of the Kingdom of God also have certain responsibilities. We must stand up and be counted when acts of atrocity against humanity are committed. So it was in Elijah's time.

The story of Naboth's vineyard is portrayed in the late R. G. Lee's sermon, "Payday Someday." It portrays the greed and evil

LIFE AND WORK

rampant in Ahab's administration. It was in this setting that Elijah fought for justice for all.

I. The Act Committed (vv. 7, 15-16).

When does one commit sin? When one thinks about it? When one plans to hurt another? When one actually follows through with the deed? Ahab's sin was conceived in his heart. He was so consumed by self-interest that he was willing to commit such a grievous injustice.

II. The Act Confronted (vv. 17-19).

Joe Louis told Max Schmelling before their heavyweight bout, that he could run, but he could not hide.

Unjust acts cannot be hidden from God. He

is fully aware of every instance of injustice.

We are to be sure that whatever we plant, we will harvest.

Elijah confronted Ahab with his sin. The prophet of God pointed out to Ahab that not only had he stolen, but he had also committed murder. This is much in line with Nathan's confrontation with David. We must notice here, however, that David sought immediate forgiveness from God. Ahab did not.

III. The Act Condemned (v. 19).

No act by injustice will ever be accepted by God. Even the king could not get by with such an atrocious deed. All of our injustices will be judged by a righteous God. All of our sins will be condemned by one that knows no sin. We must realize that even though God will con-

demn the injustices of life, we will continue to seek and to save the lost.

IV. The Act of Contrition (v. 27).

Following Elijah's confrontation with Ahab, one finds the king responding with remorse and contrition. Often those guilty of committing injustices respond in this manner.

There are times in our lives when we must exercise the act of contrition. We must, following the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, ask for forgiveness from the Holy God. Like Ahab, David bowed down in deep contrition. It was he who said in Psalm 51 that we must offer God a contrite heart. It is only then that God can use us in the vineyard of his Kingdom. It is only then that we can practice justice for all.

Dobson is pastor of Collins Church, Collins.

Have courage to endure until the task is complete

By Kiely D. Young
Nehemiah 6

How do Christians "keep on keeping on" even in the face of continued opposition? Today we have the encouragement of victory promised in God's Word. We have read the whole book. We know who wins the game. Nehemiah did not have the advantage of the record of God's written revelation, but he did have the promise of God for victory. He had to determine to follow God's plan. So must we.



Young

God is still looking for Christians with wholehearted commitment to abandon their personal wills and follow his will to make a significant impact on a non-Christian world. We cannot fulfill his plan, though, without that total commitment.

First, WE MUST STAY WITH GOD'S PLAN (vv. 1-4). Sanballat, Tobiah, and other enemies of the rebuilding of the wall tried to detour Nehemiah from the completion. Under the guise of a bit of retreat, they wanted to meet with Nehemiah and try to talk him out of his construction project. Verse 2: "Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But Nehemiah responded, "I am doing a great work, so I cannot come down: why should the work cease, while I leave it, and come down to you?" Nehemiah knew they really wanted him to get away from the job God had appointed him to do, but he would not leave his job.

What will it take to keep us from doing what we know God wants us to do? We often find so many excuses for not following God or serving

UNIFORM

as we should. It may be finances, family, friends, even the foe, Satan himself. We must also remember the message given through the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for your welfare, and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope."

Second, WE MUST NOT LISTEN TO THE WRONG PEOPLE (vv. 5-9). Sanballat sent a messenger to Nehemiah to get him to stop the work and each time Nehemiah refused. Then Sanballat sent a message with the latest hot rumor (v. 6), "It is reported among the heathen, AND Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel . . . and you are to be their king." Notice the words, "It is reported," and "Gashmu says." Now they tried to trap Nehemiah in a rumor. If they could not stop him one way, they would try another. Listen to Nehemiah's response (vv. 8-9): "There are no such things as you say . . . all of them were trying to make us afraid, saying, 'Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it may be not done. Now therefore, O God strengthen my hands.'"

Gossip — intimidation — rumors — all without validity, yet with the possibility to keep us from God's will for us if we let them. We must listen to God, not false reports. It is interesting to watch the NFL sidelines since coaches have begun sending in plays with hand and arms signals. The quarterback or defensive captain reads the sign and knows which play to call. But, there are two coaches sending in signals. Only one has the right play; the other is to confuse the opposition. The quarterback must be sure he reads the right signal. It is equally true

for Christians we must be sure we are in tune with God through his Word and prayer. Otherwise we may get the wrong message and be led in the wrong direction.

Next, WE NEED TO KEEP GOD'S PLAN IN ACTION (vv. 10-14). Nehemiah went into the house of Shemiah, who was confined at home. This friend seemed more concerned for safety than completing the wall (v. 10). "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee." In other words, "Nehemiah, let's just hide in the safety of the sanctuary until this passes." But Nehemiah was a shrewd man (v. 11). "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in." Verse 12: "I perceived that God had not sent him . . . for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him."

Again, Nehemiah knew the promise of God. He simply claimed the promise of God in prayer and kept doing what God had appointed him to do. Verse 14: "Remember, O my God, Tobiah and Sanballat . . . and the rest . . . who were trying to frighten me." Often the fear of failure will keep us inoperative. Nehemiah was not afraid of failure, because he knew whose plan he was following. We too, can daily walk

in the center of God's will and claim daily God's promises. But remember the words of Christ regarding followship. Luke 9:23: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me."

Finally, WE MUST NOT QUIT UNTIL THE TASK IS COMPLETE (vv. 15-16). There is such satisfaction in a job well done and completed according to plan. Verse 15: "So the wall was finished . . ." Nehemiah had been under pressure from the beginning, but they kept laying brick after brick until the wall was complete. THEN notice the response of Sanballat, Tobiah, and friends. Verse 16: ". . . when all our enemies heard thereof, . . . and saw these things . . . they were much cast down in their eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of God." AMEN and AMEN. What a testimony!

We too, have a job to do. God has given each of us the spiritual gifts to accomplish his will. We must not quit before the job is finished, even in the face of discouragement and opposition. We know the world does not understand the commitment necessary to follow God's will. Worldly desires simply say, "do your own thing," but the reward of hearing God say, "Well done, my faithful servant" will surpass any earthly treasure.

Young is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

LONGTIME RTVC EMPLOYEE DIES: ARLINGTON, Texas (ABP) — John Cobb Smith, 56, an employee and former director of TV operations for the Radio and Television Commission, died at his residence in Arlington, Texas, July 11, apparently of a heart attack. He served with the RTVC from 1955 to 1987, when he left to become vice president of a Dallas television production company. He also worked with Woman's Missionary Union and the Foreign Mission Board producing documentaries on missions. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane; sons Greg and Cliff of Waco; and his mother in Atlanta.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



Back to Babylon

Collect cookbooks . . . visit new restaurants . . . sample all kinds of foods, spicy or plain . . . That's what Carole Martin said she likes to do.

"Had I been in Babylon with Daniel and had opportunity," she wrote. "I would have tasted from one end of the king's table to the other!"

I can identify with her. Judging from all I ate on a cruise ship in June, there's no telling how much I'd have eaten at Nebuchadnezzar's table!

For breakfast on the Majestic, anchored off Great Guana Key in the Abacos, I liked the buffet by the pool best, and eating in the open air: pineapple, strawberries, canteloupe, watermelon, sweet rolls, bacon, eggs, cold or hot cereal . . .

Dinners in the dining room featured French, Italian, American, and Caribbean foods. For the latter, a dish of island fruits was the appetizer, with grapefruit, mango, orange . . . Then came coconut soup, a green salad, and lobster tail. For the captain's special dinner, the American menu starred strawberry soup, prime rib, and baked Alaska.

At midnight, to the music of drums and cymbals, we crossed the bay in a boat for a buffet on the beach. Underneath a thatched pavilion lay an unbelievable spread of fruits and salads, barbecue pork, cookies, and

jelly rolls. Food carvers had outdone themselves. A watermelon carved into a mule's head had pieces of rind for teeth, pointed slices of melon for ears, and seeds for nose and eyes. A pig had a grapefruit body, lemon slice eyes, and strawberry ears. Ice carvers had done swans. (For one night's buffet that I missed due to lack of ability to stay awake, ice carvers had even done the Statue of Liberty. They said it took six hours in the making.)

Once W. D. and I ate lunch with the ship's comedian, an Oklahoman. He said to me, "You have to be a Southerner, to pronounce Anne with two syllables." That day I opted for the Lite Lunch — grouper fish, tossed salad, and orange sherbet.

Of course, there were snack times in the afternoon, with do-it-yourself sundae parties and old-fashioned English teas. And when the cabin steward turned down the cover, he left chocolate mints on the pillow.

Remember Daniel 1:8? "But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice of food or with the wine which he drank, so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself."

Here's what Carole said about Daniel in a devotional on the front of Yalobusha Association bulletin:

"Daniel knew that the king was attempting to replace his values with those of the polluted, pagan atmosphere found at the king's court. Nebuchadnezzar hated the God of the Jews. Daniel saw that to eat and drink in this atmosphere would be to conform to the Babylonian lifestyle. He refused . . ." (Carole is a former secretary for Yalobusha Association.)

It didn't bother me to refuse the alcoholic beverages on the boat, but saying no to too much food, all of which could have not been good for my body, was another question. When eating times arrived, I followed the lines leading to the loot. Isn't gluttony a sin?

Here is a test Carole suggests: "Count the times you will be called on to conform to the world's standards today . . . We Christians are called to be holy, different, set apart, salt and light" (Stop here and list other ways you are tempted to conform to the world's lifestyle, besides overeating.) "We are called to stand for right even if it means standing alone like Daniel and his three Hebrew friends. To know what is right and not do it is sin. You may not win any popularity contests, but you will be respected and God will bless. Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize conformity and the courage to stand for Him."

Fredonia sends team to Illinois

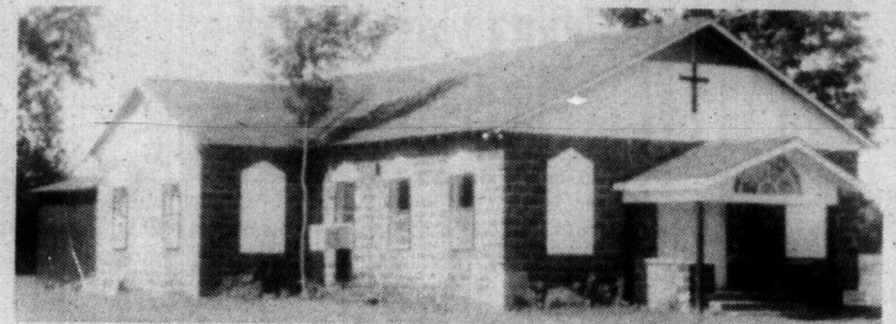
Thirty people from Fredonia Church, New Albany, traveled to Payson, Ill. June 29-July 5 to work with the Payson Southern Baptist Church. The Payson church is four years old and has around 35 members. The Fredonia team completed four projects during the trip.

A group of women and college-age students conducted Vacation Bible School at Payson. Another group of women, men, and teenagers conducted a Backyard Bible Club in the city park at Barry, Ill.

This is the first step in the process of developing a church at Barry. Men from Fredonia painted the concrete block church building, underpinned the trailers used for educational space, and did some needed carpentry work. Fredonia pastor Gregg Thomas and minister of youth, Shannon Talley, conducted a revival crusade each night.

The Fredonia team used the dormitory facilities at Hannibal-LaGrange College, and commuted to Payson each day. The trip resulted in several decisions for the Lord. Pastor Thomas said he is hoping that Fredonia can link up with Payson and provide future financial support as well as teams for other projects.

Those participating in the mission trip were Linda Bell, Chris Bell, Heath Bell, David Carter, Rhonda Carter, Brittany Carter, Sheryl Clayton, Amy Clayton, Mike Cobb, Donna Cobb, Erica Cobb, Brian Cobb, Alicia Eaker, DeeAnn Haynes, Ricky Kidd, Rita Kidd, Leslie Kidd, Ronda Martin, Kaitlyn Martin, Henry McGuire, Shonya McGuire, Cayla McGuire, Drew McGuire, Shannon Talley, Mikey Tate, Gregg Thomas, Lisa Thomas, Beth Thomas, and Johnny Thompson.



Calvary Chapel, now 90 percent complete, is debt-free and sits just southeast of the Parchman prison property, to serve staff families.

Calvary chapel dedicated; Parchman church thrives

Ray Grissett, director of the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, preached recently to a new congregation in the Mississippi Delta. In this Delta town no organized church has ever before been known to assemble — no church, of any denomination. The building was dedicated May 26, on the church's first anniversary.

It is a town of 129 families — 97 white, 30 black, one hispanic, and one Oriental. There are eight vacant houses that will soon be filled, and five vacant mobile home spaces that will soon be occupied. Unemployment is almost non-existent, and at least one person in every household is a state employee.

Welcome to Parchman, home of Mississippi State Penitentiary, with 5,300 inmates spread over 23,000 acres of flat, sprawling land along U.S. 49W in Sunflower County.

There have always been Christians among the staff families, but Parchman never had a church of its own until May 1990, when a small group began meeting under a tree in an abandoned building just off state property. This was Calvary Baptist Mission, sponsored by Parks Church, Glendora.

Christian families have always been willing to drive to churches in nearby towns like Drew, Rome, Glendora, and Shelby. But families without Christ were harder to reach by "long distance" churches. Calvary's ministry has been largely to families untouched by other churches. And Christian families moving to Parchman now have a church available where they can be "salt" and "light" most effectively, where they live and work.

Parks began the mission at Parchman when floods kept Parchman families from attending regularly. Beginning with a hull of a masonry building, a willingness to work, and a \$600 grant from Cooperative Missions, Parks Church began Calvary Chapel, which today has 55 enrolled in Sunday School, and an average attendance of 32.

Last winter Mississippi Baptists sent an additional \$1,000 to help with winterizing the building. The grants and offerings of the congregation went a long way, because not one penny has

been spent on labor.

Of the 129 families, 10 are involved in Sunday School. Five more have visited or worked on the building. Other non-Parchman families in the vicinity are also involved, as the building had to be located off prison property.

Prison families are mostly young with children, and a BSU summer missionary from William Carey College, Paul Young, is summer youth minister.

The ministry of Charles and Hazel Jones, Home Mission Board missionaries involved with Parchman Prison Ministries, has always been mainly to staff, since chaplains are provided by the state for inmate ministry. The Joneses have utilized teams from area churches and BSU groups to involve a number of staff residents in Bible studies, VBS, and Big A Clubs. These people, who often could not be involved in a church several miles away, fed into the new congregation once it began.

Joe Young (not related to the youth director) is pastor at both Parks and Calvary. He said he is convinced this ministry would never have been possible without the support of Mississippi Baptists; \$1,600 is a relatively small amount of money, but the two grants came at times when the members needed to know they were not alone in their efforts.

Dottie Williamson's mother dies

Mrs. Louise Williamson Bowers, mother of Dottie Williamson, church planter in Pearl River Association, died July 19, and was buried July 22, in Glenalpine, N.C. The cause of death was a massive heart attack.

Memorial gifts may be made to Hillcrest Baptist Church or Rolling Hills Baptist Church, both in Pearl River Association.

capsules

COURT FORBIDS DISPLAY OF RELIGIOUS ART IN PUBLIC PARK: OTTAWA, Ill. (EP) — A federal appeals court has ruled that the Jaycees cannot use a public park to display 16 paintings on the life of Christ during the Christmas season. In banning the display, which had been placed in Washington Park in Ottawa, Ill., by the Jaycees for over 20 years, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that by allowing the artworks to be displayed in a municipal park, the city had "endorsed" the religious message of the paintings. The National Legal Foundation represented the Jaycees and is considering an appeal. "This ruling underscores the absurd posture of our federal government," said Robert Skolrood, executive director of the foundation. "Where Christ is depicted as a drug addict or his crucifix is immersed in urine, the work magically becomes art and is paid for by the National Endowment for the Arts with taxpayers' money. On the other hand, sincere religious expression is labeled unconstitutional and banished from the public square." Skolrood also criticized the American Civil Liberties Union for opposing the display. He asked, "Isn't it ironic that the ACLU always cries 'censorship' when the obscenities of Robert Mapplethorpe or 2 Live Crew come under fire, yet here the ACLU itself is trying to censor religious art?"

RUSCHLIKON RECEIVES RECORD BEQUEST: RUSCHLIKON, SWITZERLAND — An anonymous donor has bequeathed a large sum of money to the Baptist Theological Seminary of Ruschlikon. John David Hopper, seminary president, announced that a member of the Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, had named the school in her will. Following her recent death, church officials notified Hopper of the pending gift, which was made through the church. According to the terms of the will, half of the total donation of more than US\$125,000 was to be used for the school's current operational expenses. The remainder was to be placed in an endowment fund.

WMU Board recommends response to global relief and hunger needs

In recent semi-annual meeting, the Executive Board of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union made a statement concerning a call to commitment to give funds for disaster relief and hunger in worldwide situations.

Disaster relief funds and hunger funds which are administered by the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, are in extremely short supply because of such great need in recent months.

Betty (Mrs. Joe) Barber, of Clinton, made a motion, seconded by Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles) Ray, of Purvis, that Mississippi Baptists, particularly members of WMU, give funds to help with disaster relief and hunger around the world. Such funds may be sent to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated for the Foreign Mission Board to use in disaster relief and hunger relief, or sent directly to the Foreign Mission Board.

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